



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

Transportation Advisory Committee

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 20, 2000
10:30 a.m. Greensboro, NC

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Carmany	TAC Chair
Mayor Keith Holliday	Greensboro City Council
Mary Rakestraw	Guilford County Commission
Bob Landreth	Guilford County Commission

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair, GDOT	Ted Johnson	Airport Authority
Mike Mills	NCDOT	Jim Ayres	Pleasant Garden
Steve Kennedy	Engineering & Inspections	Vida Covington	GTA
Frank Wyatt	Engineering & Inspections	Craig McKinney	GDOT
Elizabeth James	GTA	Dan Boyle	TMD, Inc,
Tom Martin	Planning	Monique Rainville	GDOT
Ken King	GDOT		
Tyler Meyer	GDOT		

ACTION ITEMS

Recognize new TAC/TCC members / Appoint TAC Chair / Approve October 21, 1999 Minutes

New TCC Chair Jim Westmoreland called TAC to order. Westmoreland welcomed Mayor Holliday to the TAC and new Division 7 Engineer Mike Mills to the TCC. Mary Rakestraw nominated Sandy Carmany as TAC Chair. Mayor Holliday seconded and the motion carried. Chairman Landreth stated Mary Rakestraw is Guilford County's official TAC member and that he is the alternate. Minutes from the October 21, 1999 minutes were approved.

Approve release of MTIP Amendment for Public Comment (*Handout 1*)

Tyler Meyer reviewed the *Draft Amendments: Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program FY 2000 – FY 2006*. TCC earlier recommended TAC release the amendments to public review between January 24 and February 23. MPO public involvement policies will be followed in advertising and display in public offices. The amendments add four highway safety projects (including installation of two-foot paved shoulder on a 9 mile stretch of NC 68), two bus replacement projects, and the NC Air Awareness Program. These projects are exempt from air quality conformity analysis. The Clean Air Awareness Program will inform Guilford County

citizens and businesses about ground-level ozone, its consequences and voluntary measures that can reduce NOx emissions on ozone-alert days. Outreach efforts will include television and radio advertisements, public school programs, and participation of large employers to facilitate employee trip-reduction on ozone alert days. Discussion followed. It was observed that air quality issues are increasingly important to MPO citizens and that the city and county may benefit substantially from participating in and supporting the program. The Division of Air Quality will brief TAC on the program on 2/25. Mary Rakestraw moved to release the MTIP Amendments for public review. Mayor Holliday seconded, and the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

MPO Priority Sessions

The MPO priority session will likely be scheduled for February or March. Discussion of the needs list followed. Chairman Landreth stated eastern Guilford County needs are overlooked. Ken King observed the state focuses resources on major routes due to funding constraints and staff analysis focuses on high demand routes based on technical criteria. TAC may wish to identify economic development project needs for further study. Specific eastern Guilford County project needs were discussed including McConnell Road widening, Cone Boulevard Extension to the future Eastern Urban Loop, and US 29 Interchange Reconstruction at Reedy Fork Ranch.

Draft Planning Work Program

Tyler Meyer reviewed the draft Planning Work Program FY 2000-2001 (PWP). The draft PWP includes a list of special projects the MPO plans to undertake, expected levels of FHWA and FTA planning funds, and an itemized list of how these locally and state-matched funds will likely be distributed across the planning categories defined in the *Prospectus for Continuing Transportation Planning for the Greensboro Urban Area*. The special projects list will be revised to include support of the City Comprehensive Plan. TAC will adopt the PWP on February 25.

Senate Bill 1164.

Ken King presented a staff position paper and draft resolution opposing SB 1164. Issues of concern include: (1) proposed MPO redesignation process; (2) representation issues; (3) institutional issues; (4) funding issues; (5) integrated land use and transportation planning; (6) effective planning for transit, bikeways, and pedestrian facilities; (7) local road network improvement needs, and (8) need for serious study of these issues before any action is taken. PART provides a model for effective regional planning that should be considered in the Triangle and Charlotte areas. A key factor is that existing MPOs collaborate in coordinating regional decisions while retaining authority for sub-regional issues. Opportunities to strengthen PART in this capacity should be pursued. The position paper and resolution reflecting TAC directed revisions will be transmitted to Senator Clodfelter, sponsor of SB 1164, at a discussion meeting on January 24. Per TAC request these materials will also be transmitted to the Guilford legislative delegation and other decision-makers. Mayor Holliday moved and Mary Rakestraw seconded a motion adopt the resolution and supporting materials. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Transit Services Plan

Dan Boyles, TMD Inc., updated TAC on the Transit Services Plan (TSP) by reviewing (1) plans for revised Career Express service to the Airport Area, (2) an analysis of transit service needs based on a Residential Transit Orientation Index; and (3) the data collection efforts leading up to a comprehensive ridership inventory including boardings and alightings. Career Express service will be restructured to use a full-sized bus for travel between the airport area and downtown with sub-area distribution through vans serving a transfer point at the Fire Station at the intersection of Downwind and Base Leg Roads. The Career Express service revisions will be implemented quickly. Other service changes should be ready for implementation by July 1. The GTA Board plans to adopt the Transit Services Plan in February, and TAC will be briefed on the adopted recommendations at the February 25 meeting.

Board Member Update

Mike Mills briefed TAC for Doug Galyon. He reviewed the status and expected completion dates of major transportation projects, which remain on schedule. Upcoming project lettings include (1) the Southern Loop from Wiley Lewis to Elm-Eugene – (February); (2) the Friendly Ave Bridge Replacement over Aycock – (January); and (3) the Regional Road Bridge over Market Street – (May). Doug Galyon has agreed to commit \$150,000 in Small Urban Funds for intersection improvements on NC 68 at Triad Center drive. Jim Westmoreland thanked Mr. Galyon and NCDOT for this commitment.

Airport Authority Update

Ted Johnson reported design is underway on the Regional Road re-routing. The contract may be let in March with work underway this summer. The Draft EIS for airport expansion plans should be available in February with a Final EIS expected this summer. Effective planning efforts will be required to address related roadway issues and prevent significant residential encroachment close in to the runways.

Norwalk Street Extension

Craig McKinney noted this \$1.3 million project is part of the Southeastern High Speed Rail Corridor. The City will construct the project and receive reimbursement with federal and state rail funds. Rail crossings at Boston and Rail Streets and Rucker Road will be closed. Norwalk Street extension will connect the area to Patterson Street and Merritt Drive, with its existing grade-separated railroad crossing to the east. The public meeting on January 10 brought positive feedback from attendees, who urged the construction of the proposed Phase II. This unfunded phase would extend Norwalk Street to the west and involve a grade-separated railroad crossing.

PART Update

Sandy Carmany reported the election of officers at the January meeting. PART approved the rail study consultant contract and adopted a resolution opposing SB 1164.

Staff Informational Items

Copies of the 1999 Traffic Volume of Major Streets map showing average daily counts for major city streets were distributed. Loop detectors are in place and signal retiming was expected within two weeks at the Battleground and Markland intersection. The meeting adjourned at 12:30.